

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Morning

Date 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Hymns Psalm 3 T Martyrdom, 263 203 Read: Acts 16:25-34 Text Acts 16:16-19

Series: Philippians (9) Title: The Jailor Saved (2)

The Philippian Jailor is another testimony of God's sovereign grace in the salvation of a sinner.

When Paul and Silas were thrown into prison, the jailor was commanded and given a charge as **verse 23** states **to keep them safely**, which means **to guard them securely so they will not escape.**

**v27** states he is "**...the keeper of the prison...**" He is the guardian of the prison. Responsible and accountable if any prisoners escape.

**However, the Lord providently sent an earthquake so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.**

The jailor having awoken out of his sleep, thought all the prisoners had escaped, straightaway he felt the distress, shame the pressure of his position, and upon thinking he failed in his responsibilities and in understanding by his accountability he would face death.

He concluded the only way out was to put himself to death.

This man who had become, troubled, distressed, shamed feeling a failure, **verse 27 he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.**

The biggest battle this man fought was in his mind, **he ...would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.**

The word **supposing**, means *thinking to think*. The idea is how he viewed the situation. He thought everyone escaped, he thought the worst.

His over thinking lead him to wrong conclusions.

When decisions are made and acted upon, when troubled, under pressure, burdened down, loaded with cares, feeling a failure, and shame, we will come to wrong conclusions, leading to wrong actions, that will effect ourselves and others around us.

Remember this man is not saved, he is ruined by sin, and so by nature his mind, his thought life is blinded by sin, his understanding darkened.

The wicked one, is a deceiver, a twister, a mind trickster, causing troubled souls to think life is not worth living.

The devil seeks to destroy lives, **John 8:44** he is a murderer and liar from the beginning.

***In fact this jailor is really the one who is in prison, i just don't mean working in jail but spiritually he is a captive, a prisoner of the devil.***

This jailor is in the ruination or destruction of his sin, he is lost in sin, and goes to put himself to death, but he is stopped, by gospel preachers pleading for his soul, he **hear's a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.**

Having known why the Paul and Silas are in jail for telling forth the way of salvation in Christ alone, this troubled man, now sees hope, **verse 30** “**...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?** **verse 31** “**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**”

Paul and Silas have no other spiritual hope or help to offer this man, only Christ. They cared for his soul.

Let me tell you young people, troubled one, some feeling troubled, depressed and under pressure,

Suicide, self harm, drug over dose, Alcohol benders, is never the answer, be assured, **in all the worlds, chaos, cares and challenges, there is comfort, because Jesus is always the answer.**

You don't feel Loved, Jesus love is everlasting and unchanging, He is love. you say no one understands, Jesus always understands, you feel burdened, Jesus is the burden bearer, you have a battle in your mind, your thoughts are in a war, you feel things are going out of control, I tell you Jesus can put you in your mind, and give peace.

How do I know that because **Luke 9:56** ***“For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.***

He said Himself in **John 10:10** ***“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.***

What a wonderful sight of Jesus Christ the refuge of the soul, the burden bearer. He takes sinners ruined by and since the fall of Adam and redeems them, giving them life.

**By Adam came RUINATION, by Christ came REDEMPTION.**

**By Adam came DEATH, by Christ came LIFE**

**By Adam came SEPARATION FROM GOD, by Christ came RESTORATION TO GOD.**

You see, Christ upon the Cross was the representative, the head of His church, responsible for the sins of all His people from all ages.

God took all the guilt, all the sin, of His people and he made Christ accountable for it. He took responsibility for their sins and paid all their debt, by having all their sins laid upon Him.

Now the Lord Jesus was not personally guilty of sin. He had no sin of His own. But He took all the accountability and liability of their sin, and made Himself responsible for that sin.

As **2 Cor 5:21** states “**for He Hath made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin..**” what was the purpose “**that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.**”

In other words, **God took all that we deserved and imputed, placed, charged credited it to Christ’s life, and God took all that Christ deserved and he imputed placed, charged credited it to all His believing people.**

Because God viewed and treated Christ as guilty upon Calvary, God now views and treats all who have believed on Christ as free from all guilt and condemnation.

Believer There is nothing to dread, we are alive in Him.

Having considered the **Jailors Ruination.**

## **II SECOND, THE JAILOR’S REQUEST.**

The jailor then asked the most important question in the world, **verse 30** “**...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**”

Upon hearing there was hope in Christ, he responded **what must I do to be saved?** which means he knew what the word **saved** meant, and he knew what he needed to be saved from, eternal death.

The word **saved** means **delivered or rescued to escape** . In this case **saved, rescued, delivered** from the wrath of God.

He is not asking to be saved from the earthquake for it has ended. He’s not asking to be saved from authorities for the prisoners are all safe.

He enquires about the way of salvation, he has seen the value of his soul and it must be saved.

He was awakened physically by the earthquake, **but more important he was spiritually awakened by power of God.** He was troubled and concerned about his life.

Therefore, when he understood there was hope in the gospel, he asked ***what must I do to be saved?***

**He needed to know how to be saved. what action to take to be saved.**

**The Lord Jesus used this same word saved, in John 10:9 “I am the door, by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved....”** it is the word used concerning the saving mission of Jesus,

**Luke 19:10 The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.**

to be saved, ***delivered, rescued to escape, the coming judgment of God.***

Paul said in **Romans 5:9** ***“much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved delivered, rescued, escape from wrath through Him.***

Is there is one troubled about life and sin today, this must be your request, what must I do to be **saved, delivered, rescued to escape.**

There is always hope in the Lord.

### **III THIRD, THE JAILOR'S REST**

Paul and Silas said in **verse 31** ***“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”***

The word **believe** means ***to trust in, depend upon.*** The idea is to rest fully upon.

Saving faith rests upon ***the Lord Jesus Christ, alone.***

Notice Paul and Silas in sharing the gospel where plain simple and complete, they did not say believe on yourself, us, religion, any pagan god in Philippi, or Roman law.

Nor did they stop at the word **believe** and allow the Jailor to think himself what or who is he to believe.

That is the compromising and confusing message today by false religion, just believe, but, believe what, believe on who, and usually the answer is believe what you want, believe what you think to be right, have faith in yourself, or in the church.

Such easy believe-ism, keeps sinners troubled and burdened by the guilt of sin.

Paul and Silas, were showing the jailor that to be saved he must exercise faith in Christ alone, as His only hope for eternity.

His faith must rest or lean fully in or upon **the Lord Jesus Christ**, only then would he **be saved**. They pointed the jailor to "**the Lord Jesus Christ**" and to Him alone.

Salvation rests only upon **the Lord Jesus Christ** because He alone is **authorise, to save, anointed to save, and appointed to save** – the title "Christ" means *Messiah*, teaching His appointment within the covenant of grace to be the Deliverer of sinners.

Salvation rests only upon **the Lord Jesus Christ** because He alone **has ability to save** – "Jesus" the name that means *Saviour*, signifying that in Him there is all the ability required to save souls.

Salvation rests only upon **the Lord Jesus Christ** because He alone **has authority to save** – "Lord" pointing to His majestic and authoritative position over the souls of men. He has the authority of heaven to save men.

When the Jailor or any sinner is commanded to *believe on **the Lord Jesus Christ*** they are being told to fully trust or rest in Christ and the work that He has done for the full saving of their soul.

There is no other Saviour, for you sinner, only ***the Lord Jesus Christ***. All you need is found in ***the Lord Jesus Christ***.

Therefore believer, resting in the Saviour, we commit our life, death and eternal destination into His hands, as we are kept by His power, for Christ's everlasting covenant and precious blood is our eternal security.

#### **IV FOURTH THE JAILOR'S REASSURANCE**

**verse 31** ***"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."***

The Jailor is reassured in the gospel that once he rests upon Christ for salvation he will be saved *immediately, completely and eternally*.

This is promise, a certainty, there is no if's, but's or maybe, rather full salvation they shall, they will be saved.

What confidence these words give to doubting and anxious hearts. Immediately when they call on the name of the Lord, they will be saved.

**Such confidence is founded because of the one who saves.**

All confidence that sinners have in coming to Christ is due to who He is, and He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. He is the mighty God. He will never turn away any person who believes on Him.

Paul states in **1 Timothy 1:15** this was reason Christ came into the world to save sinners. Once again, note the clear and confident words of **Matthew 1:21** ***He shall save His people from their sins.***

**Heb 8:12** “*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*”

Believer, according to and in agreement with Christ’s sinless person and saving purpose, you are reassured that all your sins, and all that was written against you are blotted out, for there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.

Sinner here is all the reassurance you need, no matter the sin, Jesus saves.

### **V FIFTH THE JAILOR’S REJOICING.**

Look at the end of **verse 34** he “....*rejoiced believing in God with all his house.*”

He listened to the message and stepped out on the promise, his faith had found a resting place in Christ.

New life means new desires.

The things of God mean much to him, how different when during the day they meant nothing to him.

There was a desire and interest for the word of God, and to see his family saved as told in **verse 32**.

He served God by ministering to his people, **v33** he washed the wounds of Pauls and Silas.

The Lord’s people became his people. Their sufferings became his sufferings.

**He is committed to follow Christ. To associate himself with the people of God.**

He was baptised to declare his union and identification with Christ.

**Notice his baptism followed salvation. He was saved then he was baptised.**



Then all the members in house hearing his confession and witnessing his transformation and by his baptism declaring a life saved to follow Christ, they to believed in God, rested fully in Him for the saving of their soul.

Very often when the Lord visits a household with salvation, it is because he has first saved a member of the family, and then He uses that individual to reach the rest of the family.

God made this man a blessing to his family, he brought the gospel into the home Christ became the song of the home.

You know your background, or your parents background, because there are some families or individuals here today and you can share this man's experience.

There was a time when the gospel was not in your home, but God saved one person and then from their witness others were brought to Christ, and there was rejoicing.

May God give family salvation, may our unsaved spouse, parents and children be saved by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

What a wonderful change had been done in his life since Jesus came into his heart. there is new a new song within his heart, heaven's melody.